



**Ohio Association
of Secondary School Administrators**



**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB 554 Proponent Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
Ohio School Boards Association
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
The Alliance for High Quality Education
May 10, 2022**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 554. My name is Kevin Miller, the Director of Governmental Relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). Joining me today are Barbara Shaner, representing the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) and the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA); Will Schwartz of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA); Katie Johnson of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO); and Tony Podojil of the Alliance for High Quality Education.

In November of 2021, the State Board revised its rule regarding the reinstatement of a professional educator license that has been expired for at least one year. At the request of an employing school district, ODE now can issue a one-year, nonrenewable “reinstatement license” valid in the same grade levels and curriculum areas as an individual’s expired license.

During the one year the reinstatement license is in effect, if the holder of the license completes either 9 semester hours of coursework or 27 continuing education units (270

contact hours), the expired professional educator license can then be renewed

While the State Board's revised rule provides a pathway for educators with expired licenses to come back into the classroom, the stringency of the requirements to be fulfilled within that one-year time frame to renew their professional licenses reduces greatly the likelihood of an educator with an expired license taking advantage of this provision.

HB 554 makes sensible changes that would make it more attractive for a person with an expired license to come back into the teaching field. First, the bill would require the State Board to issue nonrenewable, two-year temporary educator licenses to individuals with expired professional teacher's certificates or professional educator licenses. The individual must not have any disciplinary sanctions on the expired certificate or license and must completed any training required by the employing district.

Second, during the two years the temporary license is in effect, the individual must complete six semester hours of coursework or 18 continuing education units (180 contact hours) in the area of their licensure or a related field to receive their professional educator license if they wish to reinstate their license beyond the two-year period. However, remember that to renew a regular license, an individual has five years to undergo these same requirements.

In March 8, 2022, proponent testimony that our organizations gave on HB 583 regarding substitute flexibility, we provided data which reflects the challenges school districts are facing—and will be facing with greater magnitude—with teacher shortages. We noted that a 2019 study by the Center for American Progress shows that nationally, enrollment in teacher prep. programs decreased almost 36% from 2010 to 2018. The study also shows that Ohio's decrease in teacher prep programs is closer to 47%. During that same time frame, the percentage of students who enrolled in a teacher prep program but did not complete the program fell 28%.

HB 554 will not fully resolve the teacher shortage issue, but it is a positive step that will allow those who wish to re-enter education the opportunity to come back into the classroom and help districts who are struggling to fill jobs. We thank Representative Lightbody and Representative Bird for sponsoring HB 554.

Chair Manning and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 554. We are happy to answer any questions you might have.